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 SECURITY INFORMATION  
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 INFORMATION FROM  
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY RumaniaDATE OF  
INFORMATION 1952SUBJECT Political; MilitaryDATE DIST. 24 May 1952HOW  
PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

NO. OF PAGES 2

WHERE  
PUBLISHED ZurichDATE  
PUBLISHED 17 Mar 1952LANGUAGE GermanSUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Neue Zuercher Zeitung.

UNREST IN RUMANIA  
REPORTED BY REFUGEE FLIERS

The five Rumanian fliers who landed in Belgrade in March 1952 report that bomber units are being formed in Rumania in violation of the peace treaty. The five fliers who escaped to Yugoslavia were in a Heinkel 111 belonging to the 17th Bomber Squadron stationed in Stalin. They reported that Rumanian bombing planes are mostly German twin-engine Heinkels which had been converted to unarmed transports under the peace treaty. They are still not equipped with weapons, but for the last year crews have been trained for bombing flights.

The Rumanian Air Force now also has Soviet Air Force bombers of the Tupolev-2 and Tupolev-6 types. There are also a number of MIGs. According to the fliers, the Soviets had first sold these planes to Hungary. Later however, the USSR took the planes back and resold them to Rumania. It is rumored in Rumanian military circles that the planes will again be taken back and resold to Bulgaria.

The fliers said that the Rumanian people are convinced that a third world war must take place. Many are even hoping for such a war, since they have nothing to lose and could gain freedom.

The fliers confirm news, which has seeped into Switzerland from time to time, of partisan activity. Small partisan groups exist throughout the whole country. The strongest are in the hills and forests of Transylvania. A group of several hundred men is operating in the vicinity of Cluj. This unit was drawn into an engagement with the militia through treachery and lost 40 men recently. Another group is operating in the hills of Faragas, west of Stalin. In a recent engagement with a specially trained battalion, the partisans of this group captured 12 members of the militia. Eleven were killed and the twelfth man was sent to the village of Faragas to report the fate of the others.

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Partisans recruit members from all classes of society. They are commanded mostly by former Rumanian Army officers. It is believed that there is liaison between the various groups.

The fliers reported a 48-hour strike in Ploesti on 5 February 1952 caused by tardy payment of wages. On 1 March, the large winter sports hotel in Stalin was destroyed by fire. The Nivea cosmetics plant in Stalin also burned to the ground.

The members of the air force first learned of the replacement of Vasile Luca as Minister of Finance through the Voice of America. It is the opinion in party circles that Luca desired a change in government policy. Ana Pauker is especially unpopular and retains her position only through Soviet influence. There is much internal party friction, particularly between former socialists and Communists.

The pilots of the plane which landed in Belgrade was Lt Dumitru Piturca, who is an acting colonel, and the copilot was Lt Ion Ginea.

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